HARWOOD DIARIES

Oct. 12, 1834

TO

Oct. 24, 1836

BENNINGTON, VERMONT

THE

PROPERTY OF

H. Harwood

~~John--C.--Presho-~~

Presented ~~Richford-~~ by J. C. Presho

Tioga Co. N.Y.

Oct. 12, 1834-- Bennington,Vt.

(The above is a book-plate pasted in front of book)

THE

PROPERTY OF

H. Harwood

John-W.--Hastings-

Presented Washburn- by J. C. Freeman

Tioga Co. N.Y.

Oct. 12, 1834-- Bennington,Vt.

(The above is a book-plate pasted in front of book)

Bennington, Oct. 12--1834.

Sunday, Oct. 26. Distressing storm arose from S.E.- early in the day interlarded- no intermixt with hail & snow at first-- but wound up with rain-- Mercury- from 32° to 40°

Perused Penny Magazine on Sy. Paul's- Loudon- Sir- Isaac Newton-who died 1727- Aet. 54.- Sir Christopher Wren- Architect of St. B's died 1712- in 91st yr of his age.

Looked at papers-Presho-examined acct. of N. Orleans Battle- by Carey's Atlas 1814. Wright and Adeline attend meeting. Hopks drove to & from Church for them.

A Waters' hands were off near night- A. himself went to White Creek- So tedious that we stable cows at night- Ira B. Dewey came over & staid all night- Shewed letter from his brother William B. Dewey.

,1834 2

which contained information respecting health of the family which was not very bad and deaths and many marriages of persons known to him.

Monday, Oct. 27. Broken black clds- stiff W. wind- chilly- Morning Mercury 35°- After attending to usual concerns the long talked of visit to N.Y. was brought up. Boys said it was best to go it being the last wk in which Presho was going to stay with us. So we set right about the business & got ready in a hurry- taking Hopks with us- Before leaving- Mr. Wright took his departure for Billstown. We found more mud than was agreeable (to us) so that our progress was rather tardy-Got to the old Haskin place 2

1834 3

o'clock P.M.- kept by Turner Hills- but so thoughtless was I as to forget his late removal from Bennington for ed purpose on the first of this month. Our tarry was very short-taking a few glasses of very good cider of the pres't year's precious production.- My father saw a gentleman who drove a very good team ahead of us, who had halted & was about clearing out- questioned him a little as to his residence to which he replied that he belonged on the Royal Gr't about 10 miles N. of W. of Albany- where it was not uncommon for dairy men to keep 10 cows- Took new Turnpike observed great deal of poor land-some of which being (all) almost level, they had to ditch- Observed creek at Mill

1834 4

ville &c- water reared powerfully. Passed 3 toll gates- 2 cov'd bridges saw more which we did not pass. Arrived in Cong. Street about six o'clock- Cousin Sam's wife rec'd very kindly- Put out horse at Northern Hotel-After supper came up to capt W's being shewn the way by my old School mate Ira Wood who said he was 46 in July last.- Paid visit to my old fre's the Arnolds- Called for my A/c which they exhibited to amt. of $15.51 cashed the same and took their rec't for it- afterw's seeing cousin Samuel paid him for scale beem which he said he to' 6 at

Bennington, Oct. 12--1834.

Sunday, Oct. 26. Disturbing storm arose from S.E.- early in the day Interesting- no incident with hail & snow at first-- but veered up with rain-- Mercury- from 32° to 40°

Perused Penny magazine on St. Paul's- London- Sir- Isaac Newton-who died 1727- Aet. 84.- Sir Christopher Wren- Architect of St. P's died 1723- in 91st yr of his age.

Looked at papers-Franko-examined acct. of N.Orleans Battle- by Gurey's Atlas 1814. Twight and Adeline at- tend meeting. Rosie drove to & from Church for them.

A Waters' heads were off near night- A. himself went to White Creek- So tedious that we stable cows at night- Jim B.Devey came over & staid all night- Showed letter from his mother William B.Devey.

1834 2

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1834 3

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1834 4

while do- water rushed tumultuously. Passed 3 toll gates- & cav'd bridges saw more which we did not pass.Arrived in Conn. Street about six o'clock- Cousin Sam's wife rec'd very kindly- Put out horses at Northern Hotel-After supper came up to court H's being shown the way by my old School mate Jim Wood who said he was 66 in July last.- Paid visit to my old Fre's the Armsby- Called for my A/C which they exhibited to amt. of $15.81 cashed the same and took their rec't for it- afterw'ds cousin Sam- uel paid him for scale beam which he said he to' 8 at

Auction for which paid $2.25- and would take of me but $2.-in consequence of the half cheese I present to him.

The other being given to Capt W's people. They had to pay grocers p" per lb for an article of inferior quality The eveng was talked away late with the Capt's people who when first we went there were all from home excepting the Capt himself. When at Mr. A's store the pres't evening enjoyd a very friendly dialogue on politicks- 11 at night went to rest. Paid short visit to Brinkhoff's store this eve.

Tuesday,Oct 28. Awoke at 4 in the morning,but did not rise till nearly 6- It was frosty- followed by a cldy and rather chilly day- some little rainy- Visited dock- saw much business going on- Came in contact with a young man who said his name was Chas Cliff of Ticonderoga N.Y.-- A Whig & no stickler for superstitious belief- considering

that out Theologians were full of deception-hardly thought it proper to say that our mother Eve committed sin in partaking of forbidden fruit- Said he knew the widow of the late Judge Kellogg of Ticonder- Looked upon her to be one of the finest of women- She last Spring or a year ago last Spring by a sudden fall rec'd a hurt which almost deprived her of her activity-thought her to be gaining of it. Her sociability was very uncommon & as amusing as it was uncommon. Col. Harrison her agent was doing good business- the property was so considerable & his concerns so muliferous that he performed no manual labor what ever- Col. Case the

in society- labored about by the day I told him,upon his request (that) what my name was, where resident &c-that my father was the first living white male inhabitant born in Bennington and that Mrs Kellogg was also the first female born in the same town- Having come up into River St & walkd some down to enjoy conversation with this young man-returned up to Parker's Bookstore- Looked at many books among which was Lempriere's Classical Dictionary- that in 2 Vols costing $5.-the lesser one $3.-- Webster,best paper and best bound $5- Pope's Poetical Wks new Edition 13/o-- oh--10/o- Looked at almanacks not up to any purchase-- Breakfasted at Capt W-s- Wrote some

Then walked out with father- visited N. Hotel- informed landlord that we wished him to stable horse until next day which he said would be 50 Cs. Transacted some little business at Arnt's procedding onward & calling upon Dr. Lyman & Sons- where we feasted on old recollections respecting fruit- the Dr. formerly bo't of us- found great pleasure in the perfect accordance of all hands in the same political sentiments-on which acct.spent good

Auction for which paid $2.85- and would take of me but $2.-in consequence of the hair chose I present to him.

1884 5

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1884 6

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1884 7

in society- labored about by the day I told him,upon his request (that) what my name was, where resident &c-that my father was the first Italian white paint manufact- ture in Remington and that Mrs Kellogg was also the first female born in the whole town- Having come to into River it & walked down to Amby conversation with this young man-returned to Parker's Bookstore- looked at many books among which was Lempriere's Classical Bio- graphy- that is 2 Vols costing $5.-the latest one $2.-- Webster,best paper and best bound $3- Pope's Poetical wks new Edition 1\3-- $3--1\3- looked at almanacs not up to any purchase-- Breakfasted at Capt T-s- Prata home

1884 8

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deal of time there. March very low in River Street say to Ferry Street took passage in Ferry boat which was pretty full halting a moment at the bell foundry saw a gentleman who informed us that he could show us a very highly improv'd

1834 9

plow which had lately been set up by a gentleman in New Jersey- said he should endeavor to get his plow introduced into Washington Co- Belonged to Ontario Co. T of Richm'd. John Deat's Cutter plough. His own name being Ebenezer Parsons-formerly from Berkshire Co. Ms.- Was acquainted with a Marvin Hancock and a brother of his. Held on to Arsn'l. where viewed Convention,York Town & Stoney Point ordnance- Business seemd to go lively- crossed yards over to sheds- great number of heavy gun carriages-fine thick walls built in the most permanent style .Very fine building in rear full of munitions of war situated W.side canal. Two fine enclosures which as near as we could judge were gardens for

1834 10

the use of the people of the arsenal. Having satisfied our curiosity here in a measure returned by Ferry b't across the River- Dined at Capt W's- Then with the Capt proceeded over to Eaton & Gilbert's Coach Factory- Mr. Frink officiated some in showing us the establishment which was on a most extensive plan- All appeared to go on harmoniously in the several divisions of mechanism through which the coach building must be carried on. Next went by myself to the celebrated silver-smith's Mr.Fellows,requested price of silver table spoons price something over $3.- disheartened me- could not think of buying. Supp'd at the Cap't's.

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Our cousin Octavius Harwood called-left him conversing with my father to visit steamboat office where procured Stage & Steamboat Tickets for Albany & N.York for 75- On return to the Cap't's called at 2 several bookstores the last of which was Hosford's who among a great variety of works had "Evenings at Home" price 6/o- Lempriere (2-vols) in one $2.50- small $1.25- Bo't 1 lb crackers (price 10cs) went back to Cap't's W's-wrote an hour and went to bed.

Wednesday,Oct 29. Ground firmly frozen. Pretty chilly. Slept none after 1 in the morning. Arose by 4- Capt W. got up.helped me to a cold cut- just before half past 5 was called for by stage driver- seated myself in the stage for

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brother-unfortunately murdered by Strang & his own savage brutish wife- May 1827- Knew Maj'r Heman A.Fay & Ethan A. his twin brother-residing in Albany. There was

Albany without loss of time- Our patience was hard press ed by tardiness in an old gentleman and lady who were at length fellow passengers- in due time the stage gath- ered in its quota of passengers,crossed at the upper Ferry & was off lively on the rumbling McAdam way which hardly admitted of much conversation.a ong the passen- gers. The gent & lady just mentioned,were from Hanover- N.H.had come last from Castleton,Vt- complained of hav- ing beenkept awake riding in the stage starting thence for Troy at 2 in the morning-were going to visit a son in Brooklyn-N.Y. The former I should suppose about 70 -having a pretty bad impediment in his speech. Arrived at the Steam Boat dock at a late hour & with all haste boarded a light Steamer black with passengers whom she was going to carry to the

Albany 6 miles below. Soon the bell rang and away we were hurried toward Marcy's Farm. So completely full did this little Steamer appear-that I really entertained some doubts as to the safety of the people it undertook to carry- But all went smoothly along- reached and were transferred to the Albany without the least trouble or confusion. Soon after leaving the dock at Albany found David Parsons,formerly of Moosack-who recognized and spoke with me-making me acquainted with his brother-in- law-Parsons-both of Sagg Harbor-L.I. and a young man of Hoosick by the name of Andrew Blase. The latter said he was going to the City on the same errand as myself-to see and be seen- would be my companion during our so- journ there. Felt myself fortunate in thus finding a fit person with whom could associate in that vast congrega- tion of strangers.

-Will mention that in the stage this morning-a large majority appeared to be Whigs both gents and ladies. Not long after boarding the Albany became acquainted with a Mr. Hawley of thatv City- a staunch Whig- no Bank man- thought the old Bk ought to go down- a new one to be established in its stead. The boat was a fine one & she was quickly under way- The Nimrod passed us & got pretty well ahead but by some mismanagement or by acci- dent got aground either by running foul of a sloop or some such affair- passed her again. & I believe saw her no more that day except at a great distance. The River was considered remarkably low. The Albany was ground'd once but backed off-went on again with life. Conversed at times with Mr. Hawley,who said he was acquainted with capt B. Whipple, John his

brother-unfortunately murdered by Strang & his own sav- age brutish wife- May 1827- Knew Maj'r Heman A.Fay & Ethan A. his twin brother-residing in Albany. There was

a singularly sharp eyed little snug built well dressed fresh looking business man whose name & residence I should have liked well to know- among the passengers- but had not the boldness to enquire. Became some acquainted with a Mr. Morris, Seaman by occupation,- who boarded with James Hubbell in N.Y.- Knew his daughter Margaret & his brother-in-law Chapin & family for whom entertained much respect.

The passage was pleasant & the view of Hudson, Athens, the distant Cattskill Mountains and the other celebrated places along the River was poetically beautiful. I however could not think so of West Point which

apart from Revolutionary memory, has nothing of what I should call handsome about it. Mr. H. said the U.S. Hotel there was situated 130 feet above the level of the Hudson.-Looked at Tarrytown before dark. Arrived at Steam B't Dock early in the evening- Sometime before we were permitted to land- After we did joined my friends as agreed upon beforehand. Not having baggage of my own- lugged a trunk for Parsons-constantly meeting with boys offering to take it & carry it wherever directed- but I stuck- choosing to be my own porter. We put in at Holt's Hotel, but their lowest terms being $1. pr.day- Marched onwards and took supper at Fulton Market & then after going round some with Mr. P. amongst store, accepted of an invitation to sleep on board the "Lady Adams."

sloop to which he belonged-of Sagg Harbor- Capt Smith- Master. Mr. Blass of course being of the party.

Thursday, Oct 30. Hazy-but mainly fair. The Steam Boat Ohio started off for Albany this morning- constantly firing rejoicing guns on account of the Great Whig Victory as it was then called - in the State of Ohio-

Slept well in the cabin of the Lady Adams and what was also very well-the capt would take no pay. One of the first things done in the morning was to have beard taken off by a hot little Jackson hair-dresser. Had breakfast where we supp'd. As to the twistings & turnings up & down & around the City which we performed- I am not competent to describe them nor is it essential that I should. Cousin N.L.Robinson entrusted me with a letter to

a Mr. Stewart corner of Essex & Staunton Sts which after a long walk we found- Blass being with me. But it amounted to nothing-gentleman not at home. Left order to have him send his reply, if he chose to make one, to the Northern Hotel-foot of Courtlandt St- Returned to corner of Chatham & Duane St- Ballagh & Chamberlin's Grocery- where waited good while for B. to look up a friend in that vicinity. After his return-renewed our perambulations to & fro- finding ourselves at length at Exchange Hotel-No.10 Broad St where saw many country merchants- including some from Hoosick F's & Bennington- from the

latter place were L.Patchin Esq'r & young Chas Robinson-
Getting goods of course - The former expressed surprise
on meeting one here- supposing me out of place no doubt.
In the course of

1834 19

the P.M. called at Arnold,Leggett & Lapham's-Deep in
business- doing well as we may presume- Came round by
the Gr't Battery-which of all places in the City I think
one of the finest- nearly approached the Albany Steam
Boat ground. Was offered a copy of Pope's Poetical Work
for 44 Cs- would not buy-knowing that books could not be
eaten- No, they would not prevent stravation any more
than blocks of wood. When I offered the man 25 Cs- he
keenly resented it.- Accomp'd Blass among stores over be-
yond Broad Way- who wanted to purchase a large clasp for
travelling bag-price 75 Cs. when found. We then returned
to the grocery of Ballagh & Chamberlin-where if I right-
ly recollect I waited for him and his friend to get read
y to go to the Bowery Theatre. Let me add one

1834 20

or two words to what was previously said of this store
in the morning. They had just erected the late invented
weighing scale in a most commodious part of the store-wh
with which were so highly pleased that they weighed eve-
ry one that offered himself gratis that day- myself in-
clusive- Weight being 153 lbs- One of the Cits weigh'd
282. While here in the evening the Jackson men of that
section assembled in tumultuous throng- marching in real
military style,drums beating,flags flying- all labelled
in large Capitals &c &c- Called for by B & his friends,
started for the B. Theatre-but on my part quite undeci'd
ed as whether to attend or not until arrived at the house
when became resolved to do so. Blass purchased my tick-
et for Gallery- 75". Took seats in ample season. The
pieces were "Tom Cringle" "Beulah Spa " and the New
Piece of "The Last

1834 21

Nail" or "The Drunkard's Doom". The novelty of being
in a N.Y.Theatre was perhaps the bewt argument that could
be adduced in favor of my being there-otherwise the lit-
tle imitations I had seen in Bennington afforded more
real satisfaction than the Original itself-if I may so
express it. Not being much used to exhibitions of the
kind,my judgment of course must be very imperfect in re-
gard to good acting. Be that as it may am not afraid
boldly to say that there were a number of good perform-
ers belonging to that Company- that is my humble opinion
Fine Building- Grand Music- Broke up at about 11
o'clock-Street full of carriages of all descriptions for
carrying passengers. Blass was going to lodge with his
companion- I had no place

1834 22

looked out- My friends generously assisted me in getting
in at Tammany Hall-where I entered my name in the big

book as fairly as I could-mentioning residence likewise- Accomodations very good & proper- Rested well- at the tune of 3/0 for lodg'y only.
Ballagh & C. were provisions dealers- Cheese at 9"- Butter at 15"-

Friday, Oct 31. Scowling, cld'g, sleety, cold, rough weather- Wind N. Riv. rough.
Left Tam'y before 7 in the morning. Crossed the Park- Walked in rear of City Hall- Viewed the grand beginning of the Great Astor Hotel.

(Pages from 22 to 30 are blank)

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Tuesday, Oct 18, 1836 High N.W. wind-cly-frosty morning- Merc Morning 34- Arose at 4-Rung up all hands- Very ready assistance was given-got away about 6- N.L. Robinson & L.S. Patchin ready on very short notice- Capt D. Robinson spurs round & gets together money which he sends by cousin N.L.- We waited patiently for that-then Mr. Love put in-and before his time was up we were quite out of patience. Found the road considerably cut up by late rains-but bad as it was reach'd T. Hill's Half way House by 10.- N.L. & L.S.P. dined- the latter very cold- Geo. & self took glass of wine- Saw Peter Green- Reed the old bar keeper seemed to be going off to the W.

1836 31

came on pretty lively the remainder of the way- Got to Troy by about 2 P.M.-heard that the John Mason was ordered out 1 hour sooner than heretofore only 25 minutes remained for getting on board- Fixed business with Geo. in haste-Ran into Steamboat Office, procured ticket, paid $3- boarded the boat immediately- Saw Mr. M. Huntington who complained of ill health- A 2d thought made me miss my gloves- returned into the St b't office- were readily handed over as honest men should- scampered back to the boat- which was seen under(weigh)way- At the office was assured that paying for my ticket would exempt me from any charge on board of the J. Mason-but when the man came round collecting fare-the story had another version.

1836 32

It was the day boats that that rule was applied to- Paid the shilling & said nothing about it- Kept with my friends pretty closely- few on board, that were of my acquaintance- Soon arrived at Albany-were joined by a numerous company of passengers- boat literally black-with them-quickly wafted us down to the De Wit Clinton which was boarded in five minutes- Sailed many miles before dark. Passengers numerous- judged to be between 4 & 500-

My friends & self had drawn no berth-in lieu of which went to the Capt's office & got tickets for setters but it proved to be of no use- first come first served. In the course of the evening discovered that the Cashier of Bennington Bank was on board

1836 33

who amused us with anecdotes of the early days of the celebrated Joshua Monroe of Shaftsbury- Working for Parker Cole at $7 pr month- chopping logs all day in winter eating coarse bread & milk for dinner in the woods out of a dish formed by making a hollow cavity in the shoemaking apron of old Parker-laboring hard as long as day light lasted-after which woud return some distance to the house-sup on hasty puddg and milk or other very simple coarse fare and spend the remainder of the evening until 10 o'clock making coarse shoes- Go to bed & rise by 4 next morning & go through the same routine- So we presume he went on for years acquiring the habits of Herculean industry,rigid economy & all iron requisites for gaining wealth which

1836 34

resulted in establishing him among the most wealthy farmers in the county- My prospect of gaining rest was very dubious all the forepart of the night- but in spite of the ill accomodations with which I was furnished-enjoyed several hours,sound sleep. Sat by a well dressef gentleman who told me the history of a lawsuit which he had just been to attend to Albany- It was about a lease of water privilege in the town of Yonkers, residence of my hero- which ran to exclude all others from setting up the same business in that place,as I understood it- The person granting said lease,after our friend had fitted up his mill for sawing mahogany at great expense-contrary to express agreement went on & lett to others in like employment so as

1836 35

to almost ruin his business- Therefore he had put in for damages in the sum of $1250 which but for the misconduct of one of his lawyers he would have obtained ere this-The celebrated Mr. Storrs- Mem of Congress he told me was his main coun'l. who had done honorably as far as he had gone-but the other to whom in all he had paid about $400- had kept back 200 of it and probably applied to his own use-to the great hindrance of his cause- Didn't think he should lose it because he held receipts for it- and the gentleman in whose hands it was had the undisputed reputation of being worth thousands. Went upon deck about 4 o'clock-Returned down stairs-seated myself by a mute passenger & took another nap-Soon after daylight again visited the deck

1836 36

and found we were near the Steam B't wharf where we shortly arrived Wed, Oct 19. Many waiters as usual came on board offering assistance to convey persons &

baggage &c- But we wanted none-landed & with my friends
M.L. & L.S. walked directly to widow Stewart's corner
of Essex & Staunton Streets- Introduced to the widow-a
smart active lady of middle age Ate a good breakfast
mainly of buckwheats cakes-fresh meat,bread & butter &c-
Butter very high- retailing at 23 Cs- After breakfast ca
came down town saw some of the military out in full uni-
form- Visited Catharine Market-lost friend Patchin-
found Mr. Bisbale in the Fish Market busy in his stall-
then went strolling about and finally

1836 37

to Lee,Dater & Miller's-161-Front St. Stayed some time
trying to get a chance to do some business- but seeing
no opportunity & being told by one of the Firm that we
could not be waited upon until 2 or 3 P.M. left & improv
ed the remainder of the morning in visiting various
streets in that section of the City-especially the burnt
district. Saw the foundation walls of the new exchange
about to be erected- A great many hands & teams seemed
to be employed here. Appeared to be on a most grand &
noble scale- Staid not long in contemplation here.
Immediately proceeded to Coentis Slip- thence down South
Street- shipping numerous- Near B.Ferry found great
grindstones of enormous size-Heavy team & wagon employed
in removal of them. Cross'd over to Brooklyne- fer

1836 38

riage very low- 2 Cs a piece- landing at the termination
or beginning of Rail Roads in which walked a few rods.
Observing high towers rising from large buildings of
extensive dimensions & singular shape-turned aside to
inquire the business- Glass works- Many hands employed.
One of them beckon'd us to come round to him- Done-
Handed blowpipes to Nathan- used it to the best of his
ability- handed the same to me- followed suit- When it
was discovered what the man wanted- Robinson handed over
o/6-Of course I did the same- but it by no means satis-
fied our fireman who insisted upon having double the
amount- We remained not long to discus the point-left
without ceremony- advanced to corner of Henry Street up
which walked whole length- Down Fulton to the Ferry-
took boat

1836 39

& came over in a trice- Ferriage double the other- Bel~~ie~~
lieve went to Bookstore- bo't Writing Fluid- the first
I ever saw-Not sure whether it was before or after com-
ing from L.Island- Nothing essential. Since I have men-
tioned the Isl'd would just observe that the City of B.
is a smart looking-business driving place. Parted with~~A~~
Went to Catharine Market- Bisbee busy in Fish Stall-
Stepped aside where a coaster from Marblehead was dis-
charging cargo of Hemp- B. having wound up business for
the day-waited upon me up to his residence. Reception
very friendly-Mrs B.lively & sociable- enquiring very
specially respecting former friends & acquaintances in

Bennington-Son Chester at home from Jacksonville Flor'a where he followed mercantile business- full of chat too. Dine & off to Underhill's with B. who introduces me to the great Cheese Monger

1836 40

Answer numerous questions touching dairy & dairying full & particular. Let him know very minutely the history of my transactions with Caleb Brown- Tells me he does not believe B. can realize any profit from our dairy the present season- Since receiving information through Bisbee how it was disposed of had called on his,B's agents- Arnold,Leggett & Lapham to see if it had arrived in order to buy a cask of it,but had not come in-Meant to purchase one if possible- Very free to converse,but as as B. represented-very snug in dealing- Extremely cautious in making contracts but once made-strictly up to them- letter & spirit. I very emphatically noticed his remark that B. would make nothing on the contract. Believeing Brown had done pretty handsomely by me I scorned to be thought meanly of in skulking about the City trying covertly to get up a rival

1836 41

customer in Market- so requested Underhill,if he should again call upon Arnold,L & L. not to expose my name-said he would not - assuring me at the same time that nothing I had said or done (with him) would in the least prejudice the sale of the dairy hereafter. Mr B. next waited upon me to a Mr. Hyatt's-Cheese Dealer- but as this gentleman seemed constitutionally deficient in conversational powers our visit was not protracted to great lebgth of time- left & returned again to B's Division No. 30.- Supp'd & remained up until 10 or 11 talking overold affairs- So ended Oct. 19- Cl'y-W.d S.

Let me note one circumstance.-
Soon after our return from Brooklyn-in the course of City Rambles- met our respected friend Cyrus B.Hills-otherwise as usually call'd,Bingham H. of Arlington-so pleased-laugh'd all round his head- All of us being pure natives of Old Bennington.

See Jour'n Feb 12 or 15- 1836.-

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Friday,Oct 20. Gloomy-rainy from 8 or 9 A.M.until about 1 P.M.From mederate became cold & chilly tow'd evening. Scamper'd off to Wid. Stewart's to get cloak. Took breakfast at Bisbee&s. Exchanged compliments with the Widow & returned to B's-spending the remainder of the morning writing-

After dinner accomp'd by my friend visited National Institute at Niblo's Garden- admittance 25cs. Here was displayed some of the noblest specimens of the inventive and mechanical powers of our countrymen to be met with in any place in the U. States. To attempt description,in me, would be like endeavoring to overturn Mount Anthony with a handspike. Various kinds of machinery were set in motion by steam. One bad accident resulted

therefrom as the outer extremity of the longest leathern belt of all in operation was fixed the machine for pre

paring barrel hoops. The men having charge of the complicated mass-at length- after a good deal of tinkering (it-was)put it in lively motion- all seemingly regular as clock-work- bystanders drawing up very near for close inspection. The man who managed the hoop concern-commenced with a very large hoop-pole-no double feeding too rank- caused the head of the machine to fly off with very great force right amongst the multitude. Instantly there was a heart rending cry of most intense distress-from a boy of 14 or 15-He was immediately carried off to the hospital as I afterwards learned from the News Papers nor did I at the moment know the extent of the injury-which from the same source was stated to amount to the loss of the knee-pan. He stood directly behind the machine- I happened to be a few feet at one side- but the question immediately came

up- Why it had not been me ? Another person had the side of his head grazed at the time. I tho't much of this occurrence- hope to profit by its hereaf't. The yard,which was spacious,was almost cramm'd with a great variety of Models as well as full built machines for divers purposes- such as making butter,pressing cheese,mowing grass & grain,making cider,morticing,including the boxing of posts & sharpening rails for erection of posts & rails fence-done in the most expeditious manner possible- Mills for grinding or hulling & grinding Rice,corn &c,&c- There were also many different samples of improved iron ploughs,Glass bee-hives-Night began to draw near & we kept thinking every moment of quitting,but at every step new objects presented themselves to view- so that there was no getting away-Just before candle-lighting we entered the Grand Saloon-where enchant

ment itself reign'd. Regretted not entering it sooner-Three grand Paintings ornamented the upper end of the capacious Hall- Full length likenesses of Andrew Jackson Henry H.Harrison & a third character not named to me or if he was-do not recollect him. We saw an immensity of cutlery,porcelain,cut glass ware &c,&c of hard material as well as carpetting and other stuffs-much more than fell under my observations or if recollected-more than time & space would admit of my recording here- Saw in another apartment superbly finished Fire Engines in the most imposing style of workmanship. It should be recollected that in every Branch of Mechanism or manufacture-all was American-nothing foreign-Among edged tools saw first rate looking axes,manufactured somewhere in Con-

necticut. On leaving-were queerly deceived by looking in a large mirror-which made us believe there was another room a head-when lo after passing the door-to our surprise found it an illusion- being let out to the great world in Broad Way- Saw mt friend J.N.Hinsdill in the Garden- but no other Bennington man to my knowleige. Perhaps I may hace stated wrong as to where we landed after seeing the mirror- I suspect we were only caused to step into that part of the Garden contiguous to the street- I merely wanted to give some idea the amusing trick of the Mirror- At all events was never more highly entertained at any public spectacle whatever & am of the opinion that to the curious & scientific it would amply pay for an annual visit to the Exhibition of F. Institute- Admittance 25 cs.

There were two other places of amusement we could have attended besides the ample & very useful one just mentioned- The apartment in which was to be seen the Chinese Lady & the (Five-King-Grand-Panorama)& another apartment where were exhibited The Grand Panorama- Greatest in the World- Admittance to either- 25cs.-

Returned to B's and took suppse- B. complained of being unwell in the evening- supposed to have taken cold at the Garden- Accomp'd Chester down to Catharine Market & back again on special business for his father. Saw young Cyrus Bisbee at a Grocery- his nightly resort no doubt- Chester wrote & put in my charge a letter to his friend Dan'l B. Hinsdill- whose residence I was not then knowing to- He wrote it sometime in the course of the day.

Soon after arrival from the Market a young man named Welcott brought up a letter of recent date written by an intimate friend of his to his uncle in N.Y.- Had formerly taught school but of his fitness for that (a teacher) saw no very prominent signs in s'd letter. All the same it really afforded much valuable information disfigured by too many instances of bad spelling. Dated at or near Chicago "entioned some recent dreadful storms on L. Michigan which resulted in the destruction of a vast amount of shipping & other property. Particularly instanced the loss of 2 vessels under names of Harcison & V.Buren. His sweep by travel was wide- Signed "Orestus Wright".

Was not a little amused by hearing friend Chester after coming to bed relate the history of his courtship in which he & his spouse used much management- Somewhere about 27 or 30 yrs of age- wife little younger- had 2 or 3 children-

Friday,Oct 21. Cold,clear,Fine,for business. Quickly paced the side walks to Mid. Stewart's-Store not

open- strolled beyond to while away the time- On going back, store was open- Robinson & Patchin rousted & for the sakes of company after breakfast-ate here, Mrs J. inviting me very courteously- the meal being worthy of the lady who cooked it. Patchin kept with us awhile- Indeed we all came down town under full sail. Commenced shopping- W. side Chatham Square- Of course my business was chiefly to look on- but in obdience to request of my lady on leaving home, purchased 8 yds calico for dress at 25 cs- which was c/6 under his price, but pretended to sell it so because it was the first sale he had made that mg. Along this row may be seen some of the most enormous Boot Signs-exhibited perhaps in the world. Not long after beginning business- P left us-

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-Went with Robinson to an extensive Toy Shop be bo't about $7's worth their ware. Saw a new kind of musical wind instrument- on the bellows plan- A gentleman call'd who could perform very handsomely thereon. Saw in counting room very neat & pretty plan of London. Coming into B'd Way & calling at Book Store. Robinson keeping onward-parted us- so that we met not again in the City- Tried in vain to find at Book Store Theological Discussion by Eli & Thomas. At Carville's bo't Historical Sketches & New Map of City of N.Y. for 75cs & 2 very large steel pens for 25 more- Saw Traxall's Memoirs-price $ 2 1/2-- Walk'd on to a certain store in Broad Street looking for M.L.R. but he was not there. Call'd down to No. 161 Front St. hoping to see him there-disappointed- In marching for Bisbee's had some intercourse with cheese dealers.

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who generally appeared anxious to buy, but at rates not extravagant- say $9 - Previous to leaving store at No 161 Ft St. would remark that they seem'd to transact a great deal of heavy business in their line and very expeditiously too. Dined at Bisbee's- Threw him into temporary anxiety by changing my mind in respect to leaving town-postponing it to -tomorrow morning-he fearing the Lobster & Bass he designed to forward by me to gov. Tichenor & V.D. Spiegal, by delay would get injured- But he was soon over it- Dined there- Wrote short line to M.L.R. instructing him to purchase coffee for me which at first designed to leave at the store afores'd.- but afterwards, having once more gone there, abandoned the idea of finding him, unless by mere accident-devoting the remainder of P.M. in going ab't the City. Went into the office of the N.Y. Commercial & Spectator- Were working off Comm'l.

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of they made present to me one copy- Printed by machinery- Could work off 2000 copies in 1 hour-Conversed a little with the man whose business it appeared to be to superscribe papers- He made use of the fluid with which I am now writing- dont mean identically the same, but such kind. Returning to Broad Way-Made tow'd the Battery-Ob-

served one fine dwelling whose portals were ornamented with brass lions of full size on the right & left- Passing Bowling Green entered Battery Park through large iron gates- Advanced to the Battery-enjoyed the fine prospect a moment-water rough- proceeded nearly to Castle Garden Gate- turning to the right-left Battery Place & visited Steam Boat Dock-Almost sorry had not taken passage in an eveg boat- The Swallow- to start at 5 o'clock for Albany. Day B't for Alby- 7 tomor.Mg. The Albany

Returned to B's- Enquired for hair dresser-Directed to little Frenchman- real dwarf-Soon parted me from my beard then went up to Wid.Stewart's- Robinson & Patchin not in Expected every moment. Rec'd invitation to spend the night there- declined the offer & after waiting awhile came down Essex to Division (S) thence upward to No. 30 where another evening was passed with Mr.B & family- Much was said respecting many Bennington people. Mrs B. rec'd call from some female friends,one of whom was remarkably gay,sociable & lively- the lady of a merchant of middle age- no children to cry for bread- I attributed her cheerfulness partly to that. Mr. B. Complained bitterly of ill health,but his wife & family seem'd quite indifferent about it- presume he is sometimes hypochondriacal. He resolved on taking a sweat.Sat up late.

Saturday,Oct.22d. Pleas't but cool.Started ,or made an effort to start early but if Mr. B. had not spurred up his lady a little should have been late- Her breakfast was tardy. Let one pass in silence over much of what I saw there in opposition to domestic happiness Enough for me to say-they treated me kindly- Took cold cut and was away- In my way to the Steam Boat-marched through enclosures in rear of the City Hall,Jail &c. Looked at Astor Hotel and other fine buildings-noticed sign of Exhibition of Members of old Congress-Signers of Declaration of Independence- Got to the Boat just in season- It was the Albany- Rec'd into my custody a basket of bass & oysters present from friend Bisbee to Gov T & N.D. Spiegel- Passengers seemed to be very respectable- Many from the East 'd. Started out with

very flattering prospect. Saw one fine portly looking man who seemed to be a prson of some consequence- Professed to be a Whig-was formerly a Federalist- Never believed in the Hurra system. No one on board from Bennington that I knew except Chester Hinsdill-brother of the cashier of B.Bank- about 15 yrs of age- Stuck by me pretty well Tried to see Stony Point-but failed because no one could point it out. At any rate I saw no one that could. The aforesaid gentleman could discourse very agreeably. There was a certain shoemaker on board who seemed to enjoy himself about the nicest of any man I

saw- Very free with his remarks on a variety of subjects. Boat made calls at West Point Newburgh &c- coming on at a fine rate when after touching at Poughkeepsie to leave passengers getting out half a mile- Shafts failed- had to put

ar'd return to port- Where all the passengers landed in order to await the arrival of the next Boat- Most of them congregated at the Hotel near the Landing. Young Hinsdill & self marched up Main Street- Saw an exib'n of various articles of which the former bo't some of no great value. A certain Citizen of Rhode Island-went up N.as far as a gun factory & then returned to the Hotel & there very impatiently looked for the Boat in which we were to embark for Albany- Saw Plan of Poughkeepsie at the Hotel- Nine in the evg passed the Rochester which was destined not to carry us- At 11 arrived the Ohio on board of which passengers soon were huddled. Obtain'd some rest--Landed in Albany about 6 o'clock-October 23d- in the morning. Fine beautiful morning perhaps as

ever was seen- River remarkably smooth- About 7-The Jonas C. Heartts from Troy hauled along side & rec'd such passengers as desired to go to Troy- Sprague of Enfield-formerly of Troy-an old Religious lady from N. Haven going to Troy on visit to friends there-seated herself in cabin reading her Bible with others. I see bt inspection of minutes- Mr Sprague was formerly from Enfield C't now of Troy. Voyage to Troy very pleas't & quick over. Afterlanding suffered not a little in convenience in lugging my fish basket- Streets of T.as lonesome as a Desert- Deposited it at a little Irish Grocery No. 3d St- Went to N. Hotel and obtained information where to find the residence of F.W. Coffin- Besides wanted to see if there were any Benn. team by which could get passage home- Told me of friend Evans- but he was gone. So went to cousin's Coffin's- Rec'd one cordially

Gave one good breakfast- after which being accomp'd by Mr. C- proprly secured the fish- Talked some of going to meeting,but overslept-which indeed was well enough- as my wearing apparel was quite out of tune--Wrote out minutes- Made up cash acc't- Went down to supper- Between 6 and 7 in the evening a Meteor was seen at the S.E. which made a loud explosion-I only saw the light of it- Mrs Coffin I believe actually saw it. Cousin C. was good enough in the eveg. to accompany me to a neighboring hatter's store- necessity of the case being stated- was promptly waited upon & bo't $4 hat for my father- Went with me to stage office where applied for passage to Bennington & was told could not have one for less than $1.75- having just now put it up 25cs in consequence of high prices of grain.

provisions & everything else- At first thought would take my chance to come by other conveyance- but at last (having left the office) went back & had my name entered on the Book at 3d. rate. On our return home- called at Grocery and got my little charge- paying a trifle to the poor Irish lady for trouble of the house and bore it off to Mr. C's.

Visited Capt E.Waters late eveg. Going to quit housekeeping. Heard sensible letter of condolence for loss of child- from Elizabeth Taylor to Mrs Caroline Kendrick- Mrs T's eldest daughter. Return'd to C's & soon went to bed.

This day 48 years old- Pretty old I used to think when young- It has not been slow in overtaking me-found me in good health.

Monday,Oct. 24. Up by 2 in the morning- assisted very generously by fr'd C.

who had me ready in fine season- At 3 seated in stage comfortably though it rained. Drove slow- Driver & team new to each other. Found Chester Hinsdill seated by side of me. Passengers pretty dull. Arrived at T.Hills' half way before sunrise. Those wished took breakfast. Saw Dr. Rufus Millington with whom conversed sometime- Was on his return from Michigan. Heman, Hiram & Nathan Harwood were located on good lands at St.Josephs. The first had buried his wife.- a sister of the Dr.-say within 18 months-

When first seated for Bennington- one gentleman parted from his lady & transferred himself,on request of some of the Stage directors,to another coach. there were 3 ladies besides her- She seemed to be interesting. Had been with her husband to a certain new place 30 miles beyond Detroit where

he had invested in lands,including valuable mill seats $600- for which would not now take $1500. He had a brother there who had a family. Society extremely vitiated- rendering a residence-in that country most unpleasant & what still further bore up on her mind-she had the misfortune to lose an infant son of very promising appearance-8 months old- Should return to Highlestown Ms-their native residence as I understood-and not attempt settlement at the W. until the expiration of 2 or 3 years

A young lady returning from a 3 yrs tarry in Cataraugus Co. N.Y. to Chesterfield,N.H. was one of the passengers. Then there was a very plain looking & I presume honest old lady accomp'd by her niece. Engaged passage through from Albany to Brattleboro'-paid $8 at the office-presuming that the clerk entered their names in the book & gave credit for the money but afterwards was surprised to learn (that) that it

was not so, but to save paying over again had to go & specify the kind of money she paid over, which as her memory was good & it being in paper she could readily do. Good example of the value of paper over specie in such a case. They allow'd her & her relative their seats. Came on pretty lively- though the road was rather bad- arriving in Bennington Str't -landing at Week's by about 1/2 past 10 A.M. Met James Hubbell Esq'r about the first man to whom made known my return from the City &c- Gave up my basketo of fishes to Gov T. & H.D.Spiegel & rec'd formy trouble 5/o York. Called at H.Waters' & learned that all was going on well at home-where soon arrived- Found all hands, Warren Sibley inclusive, gathering apples.

It was variable weather-Sometimes fallish- sometimes like summer.

Thermometer (72) 67°--62°

Young Hinsdill held his seat next me thro' to Bennington -Amused himself in a sly way at the expense of some of the ladies by hauling down the blinds- They would try to raise them without discovering the trick.

The story of the woman at the Stage Office is written badly- Her name was entered by the Clerk who through inattention forgot to give credit for the moeny. When call'd upon she averr'd that she had paid (Bee-fare) it & after describing the money the clerk examined his change box of place of deposit & found the same.